

REMARKS

This Preliminary Amendment in this RCE is in full and timely response to the Final Office Action dated March 8, 2007. The present Amendment cancels independent claim 21 and amends dependent claim 22 to incorporate the subject matter of canceled claim 21. Support for these amendments can be found variously throughout the specification, including, for example, original claims 21 and 22. *No new matter has been added.*

Accordingly, claims 22-25, 29, and 30 are presently pending in the application, each of which is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Reexamination and reconsideration in light of the present Amendment and the following remarks are respectfully requested.

Entry of this Amendment is proper since the amendment: (a) places the application in condition for allowance (for the reasons discussed herein); (b) does not raise any new issues requiring further search and/or consideration; (c) satisfies a requirement of form asserted in the previous Office Action; and (d) places the application in better form for appeal, should an appeal be necessary. The amendment is necessary and was not earlier presented because it is made in response to arguments raised in the final rejection.

Information Disclosure

Documents not previously presented but listed in the prosecution of the parent or in the copending divisional application are presented for your consideration. This RCE is prompted because Certification After Final Amendment is not available.

Claim to Priority

Acknowledgement of the proper receipt of the certified formal papers filed in connection with Applicant's claim to priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) is noted with appreciation.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant thanks the Examiner for recognizing claims 22-25, 29, and 30 as containing allowable subject matter. With this Amendment, claim 22 is placed in independent form, and claims

23-25 depend from allowable claim 22. Accordingly, withdrawal of the objection to these claims and allowance of the same are respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections- Alleged Double Patenting

In the Action, claim 21 was rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as allegedly being unpatentable over claims 1-13 of U.S. Patent No. 6,428,744. Claim 21 is now canceled without prejudice or disclaimer, and without necessarily agreeing with or acquiescing in the statements of the rejection. Thus, the rejection of this claim is mooted and obviated by its cancellation.

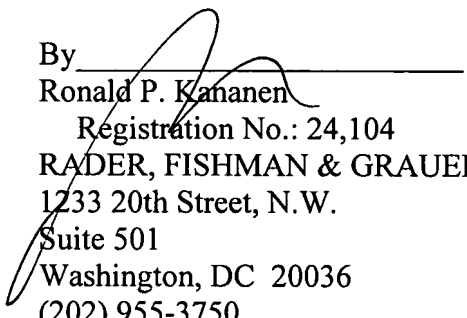
CONCLUSION

For at least the foregoing reasons, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the examiner is respectfully requested to pass this application to issue. If the examiner has any comments or suggestions that could place this application in even better form, the examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned attorney at the below-listed number.

Applicant believes no fee is due with this response. However, if a fee is due, please charge our Deposit Account No. 18-0013, under Order No. KOM-140/INO/DIV from which the undersigned is authorized to draw.

Dated: August 7, 2007

Respectfully submitted,

By 
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